

REMARKS

Applicants wish to express their gratitude to the Examiner for his courtesies to their representatives in the office interview on January 11, 2005; and continue to thank the examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 26, 27, 29, 30, 33, 34, 40, and 41.

Independent claims 1, 28, 37 and 51 have been amended to more particularly point out the nature of the claimed invention, i.e. the method and formulations of the present invention comprise a dielectric solution that is non-ionizing in aqueous solutions. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, in lines 9-12 of paragraph [0015]. Relevant dependent claims are also amended for consistency with the amendments to the independent claims, and, when appropriate, to improve readability and clarity. A new claim reciting a filter treated according to the method of Claim has been added.

In view of the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) concurrently filed herewith, entry of the claim amendments and favorable reconsideration thereof are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1 – 4, 7 – 11, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23 – 25, 28, 31, 32, 35 – 39, and 42 – 56 under 35 USC §102(e) over Elfersy et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,113,815. As discussed during the Office Interview, Elfersy et al. describes water-stabilized organosilane compositions having biocidal activity. Significantly, all of the organosilane compounds disclosed in Elfersy et al. contain a hydrolyzable group X. *See particularly*, line 5, Claim 1 of Elfersy et al.. As a consequence, all of the organosilane compounds disclosed in Elfersy et

al. are already ionic (for example, the vast majority of the exemplar compounds listed in Cols. 14-18 are ionic), will be ionic in water, or will ionize in water as a consequence of hydrolysis. In contrast, the instant invention is different and relates to methods and compositions utilizing a non-ionic formulation that will not ionize or hydrolyze in aqueous solutions.

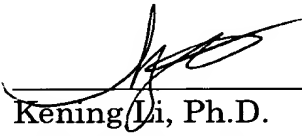
By virtue of the above claim amendments, applicants have amended the claims to reflect this feature of their inventions. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now free of the prior art and in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly and respectfully solicit an early indication from the Examiner to that effect.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #029211.50189).

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Respectfully submitted,



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